

Malcom Building
662 North Clark Street;
northwest corner of North Clark
and West Erie Streets
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1050

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
52-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ILL-1050

MALCOM BUILDING

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Location: 662 North Clark Street; northwest corner of North Clark and West Erie Streets; Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner: North Loop Realty, Chicago.

Present Use: At the time of this report, the first-floor corner is a vacant night-club; the remainder of this floor is occupied by the Rubi Lounge. Floors above are room rentals.

Statement of Significance: The building is representative of the many anonymous, brick, commercial structures that were built shortly after the fire of 1871, on Chicago's near North Side.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: Lots 1, 2, and 3 of block 27 of Wolcott's Addition to Chicago, the east half of the northeast quarter section 9-39-14. Recorded August 15, 1836.

The following is an abstract of the chain of title contained in Book 457B, Cook County Recorder's Office: The first entry in the record, dated July 24, 1872 indicates that the land was owned by Mathew Malcom (Document 45242). On December 18, 1872 August Strinski and wife granted a mortgage to August W. Schaefer for a building on the property (Document 74413). At the same time Hester Malcom, the apparent owner of the property, granted a lease to August Strinski (Document 74414). The property remained in the Malcom family for many years, several names appearing in the record - - James, Estes, Samuel, for example. On September 12, 1881, Hester Malcom entered into an agreement with Christian S. Marple for a party-wall on the south 44', on the west line of lot 3. On June 12, 1883, a petition to declare Hester Malcom insane was begun (Document 45028C). Miss Malcom was committed and her inventory taken on September 17, 1883 (Document 1/306); at her death on July 16, 1891 a second inventory was made, indicating that she still owned the property (Document 21/290). The Malcom's retained the property until September 27, 1898, when it was sold to Jemima Roffinton (Document 2735980). From that time, until the present, the property has had a confused ownership by several miscellaneous parties and firms. The present

owners, the North Loop Realty purchased it from Chicago Title and Trust on July 16, 1964 (Document 19185831).

2. Date of erection: 1874 (date inscribed on central cornice decoration).
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: There is no record of the original building permit (nor is there a known written description).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

There is no record of the significance of the Malcom family in the early history of Chicago.

C. Bibliography:

At the time of this report, no publications have been found containing information about the building. Possible sources which might be of help but not consulted by this writer are: the actual legal documents in the vaults of the Cook County Recorder's Office; possible un-indexed information in Andreas's History of Chicago 3 Vols., (188101886); and current periodicals of the time, such as Chicago Illustrated, "Two Years after the Fire" (1873).

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka
Historian
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September, 1964

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A typical example of the small Chicago multi-story buildings built shortly after the fire of 1871.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor; however, the building manager indicated that a complete remodeling is to begin later this summer.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Four plus basement.
2. Number of bays: Three bays on the east (North Clark Street) front; the center bay is narrower than the flanking bays. Five bays on the south (West Erie Street), with a 2-1-2-1-2 window rhythm.
3. Wall construction; finish and color: Tawny colored common bond brick. Piers between bays and at corners continue through a string course at each floor. However, piers are accented at each string course.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing wall.
5. Chimneys: One chimney at northwest corner of building.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance to second floor at northeast corner of building appears to be original wooden frame and door with large center glass. Service doors on southwest corner and on west wall; other openings are new.
 - b. Windows: Two-over-two-light double-hung wooden sash windows; top sash have semi-circular heads with brick arches (above); elaborate keystone with incised design.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Flat, built-up.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice on east and south wall with brackets above piers. Line of dentils below brackets.
 - c. Dormer, cupolas, towers: Small gabled parapet rises above normal cornice line on east front. It is the width of the narrower center bay. Date of 1874 in pediment of gable. Name of building is located just below pediment.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: Storage and mechanical equipment.
 - b. First floor: Presently, two night club spaces.
 - c. Second and third floor: Rooms for rental purposes.
 - d. Fourth floor: Vacant (rooms similar to second and third floors). Light well on north side of building from second to fourth floor.

2. Stairways: Main stair on west end in center of west wall. Stair from first floor entrance to second floor at northeast corner of building. A stair has been added in the center of the building from the second to the third floors.
3. Flooring: Wooden 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ strip flooring. (asphalt tile on second floor corridor)
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden doorways with transoms--mostly original and heavily repainted.
6. Lighting: Electrical.
7. Heating: Central.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: The building faces east at the northwest corner of Clark and Erie Streets. The area is a badly deteriorating part of the near north side of Chicago. Many buildings nearby have been vandalized or demolished.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Supervisory Architect
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